

PROCLAMATION OF AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM  
REGARDING THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

In October, 2012, the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, was detected in the cities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Fillmore, Camarillo, Westlake Village, Ventura and Santa Paula in Ventura County. Based on the survey data, pest biology, information from California's Huanglongbing Task Force, recommendations provided to me by the Department's Primary State Entomologist and Primary State Plant Pathologist, and experience gained from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) control efforts in the southeastern United States, I have determined that infestations of ACP exist in the area.

ACP is an exotic insect that is originally from Asia. It has been introduced into Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. In the United States, ACP has been found in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and California (San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties). ACP feeds on members of the plant family Rutaceae, primarily on *Citrus* and *Murraya* species, but is also known to attack several other genera. The most serious damage caused by ACP is due to its vectoring the phloem-inhabiting bacteria in the genus *Candidatus Liberibacter*, the causal agents of huanglongbing (HLB). HLB is considered one of the most devastating diseases of citrus in the world. Symptoms of HLB include yellow shoots with mottling and chlorosis of the leaves, misshapen fruit, fruit that does not fully color, and fruit that has a very bitter taste making it unfeasible for human consumption. The psyllids cause injury to their host plants via the withdrawal of large amounts of sap as they feed and via the production of large amounts of honeydew, which coats the leaves of the tree and encourages the growth of sooty mold, which blocks sunlight from reaching the leaves.

Under my statutory authority, as Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), I have decided, based upon the likely environmental and economic damage that would be inflicted by this infestation of ACP, that it is incumbent upon me to address this threat. This pest presents a major threat to citrus grown within the State. California is the top citrus-producing state in the U.S., with total production valued at over \$1.8 billion. Additionally, the establishment of ACP in California would increase the need for pesticide use by commercial and residential citrus producers, as well as require enforcement of quarantine restrictions. Recent studies in Florida have shown that the presence of HLB increases citrus production costs by up to 40 percent and has resulted in a loss of over \$7 billion and 6,600 jobs over the last five years. Because HLB has been detected in Mexico, the establishment of ACP in California will pave the way for HLB to spread. HLB would have severe consequences to both the citrus industry and to the urban landscape via the decline and the death of citrus trees.

My duty to act, and this decision, is based upon authority set forth in Sections 24.5, 401.5, 403, 407, 408, 5401-5405, and 5761-5764 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) authorizing and mandating the Secretary to: thoroughly investigate the existence of the pest; to determine the probability that the pest will spread; to adopt regulations (Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3591.21) as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this code; to abate the pest from the established eradication area; and, to prevent further economic damage. In order to determine the extent of the infestations, and to define an appropriate response area, additional surveys occurred for several days over a nine-square mile area, centered on each detection site. The results of these additional surveys indicate that the infestations are sufficiently localized to be amenable for effective implementation of CDFA's current ACP emergency response strategies, which include treatment. Emergency action is needed to protect California from the negative environmental and economic impact this pest will cause, should it be allowed to remain in

this area and spread. The enclosed project plan describes the actions to be taken by CDFA which are necessary to mitigate the spread of this pest.

This decision, to proceed with a treatment program, is based upon a realistic evaluation that it may be possible to address the threat posed by ACP using currently available technology in a manner that is recommended by California's HLB Task Force. Treatment needs and environmental conditions are outlined in the attached work plan. In making this decision, CDFA has evaluated possible eradication methods. In accordance with integrated pest management principles, the following is a list of the options that I have considered for the eradication of this ACP infestation: 1) mechanical controls; 2) biological controls; 3) mass trapping; 4) cultural controls; and 5) the application of pesticides by ground equipment.

Based upon input from my professional staff, including memorandums from the Primary State Entomologist and Primary State Plant Pathologist, and the input of experts familiar with ACP, I have concluded that there are no mechanical, biological, or cultural controls that are effective to eradicate ACP that allow CDFA to meet its statutory obligations. To eradicate ACP from these areas, I am ordering ground applications of pesticides be made to all ACP hosts within an 800-meter radius around the detection sites. A description of the alternative treatment methods considered, and methodologies chosen, is contained in the attached work plan.

#### Sensitive Areas

The treatment area has been reviewed by consulting the Department of Fish and Game's California Natural Diversity Database for threatened or endangered species. Mitigation measures will be implemented as needed. CDFA also consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service when rare and endangered species are located within the treatment area. CDFA will not apply pesticides to bodies of water or undeveloped areas of native vegetation. All treatments will be applied to residential properties, common areas within residential developments, and other non-commercial properties.

#### Treatment Plan

The proposed project area encompasses those portions of Ventura County which fall within an approximate nine square-mile area around each property in which ACP has been detected. A map of the detection sites with the project boundaries and the proposed treatment work plan is attached. In summary form, the treatment plan consists of the following elements:

1. **Delimitation.** Yellow panel traps will be placed throughout the project area to delimit the infestation and to monitor post-treatment ACP populations. Yellow panel traps are placed at a density of up to 100 traps in the core square mile and 50 traps per square mile in the surrounding eight square miles. Additional traps may be added to further delimit the infestation and to determine the efficacy of treatments. These traps will be serviced on a regular schedule for a period equal to two years beyond the date of the last ACP detection.
2. **Visual survey.** All host plants will be inspected at all locations where traps are placed. Host plants will be surveyed within a 400-meter radius around the detection site(s). Up to 100 properties per square mile may be inspected.

3. Treatment. Properties within the treatment area will be treated according to the following protocol: 1) Tempo® SC Ultra, containing the contact pyrethroid insecticide cyfluthrin, will be applied to the foliage of host plants for controlling the adults and nymphs of ACP; 2) either Merit® 2F or CoreTect™, containing the systemic insecticide imidacloprid, will be applied to the soil beneath the drip line of host plants for controlling developing nymphs and providing long term protection against re-infestation.

Treatments will be repeated, if necessary, as per label instruction. Both insecticides are applied by ground using hydraulic spray equipment.

#### Public Information

Residents of affected properties are invited to a public meeting where officials from CDFA, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will be present to address residents' questions and concerns. Residents are notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment in accordance with FAC Section 5779. After treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to the citrus fruit.

Public information concerning the ACP project will consist of press releases to the public and direct notification of project developments to concerned local and State political representatives and authorities. Press releases are prepared by CDFA's information officer and the County Agricultural Commissioner, in close coordination with the project leader responsible for treatment. Either the County Agricultural Commissioner or the public information officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

If you have any questions related to this program, please contact John Hooper, Program Manager, at (916) 654-1211.

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Karen Ross, Secretary

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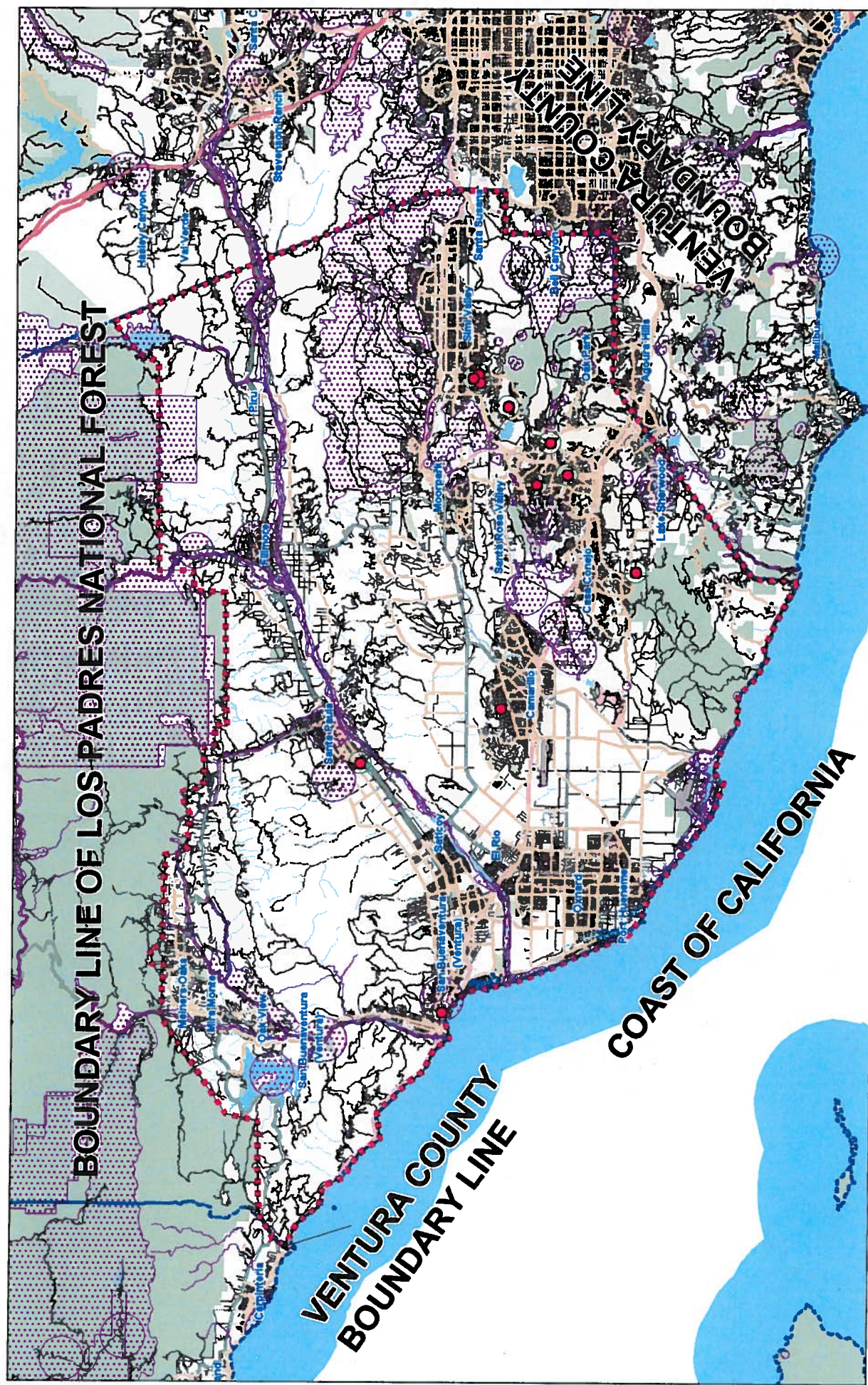
Date

Attachments




## ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

2012



**DETECTION SITE**

**MAXIMUM PROGRAM  
BOUNDARY**



**PROPOSED  
800M TREATMENT  
BOUNDARY**

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**SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
AREA / TREATMENT  
MITIGATIONS IN PLACE**